

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A rechargeable battery comprising:

a housing having at least two cells; and

a cover which closes the housing, the cover comprising a lower part which is coupled to the housing, an upper part which is arranged at a distance from the lower part and closes the lower part forming a seal, and outlet channels provided between the lower part and the upper part for acid deposition and forming a labyrinth;

wherein the lower part comprises ~~through cut openings~~ cut-through areas adjacent to the outlet channels; and

wherein the cells in the cut-through areas are separated from one another in a liquid-tight manner by cell separating wall sections which are adjacent to the upper part, and which are closed by the upper part;

wherein the lower part includes at the position of the cut-through areas a supporting structure with ribs which form the cell separating wall sections, wherein the cell separating wall sections are lined with cell separating walls in the housing and are integrally connected to the cell separating walls and to the upper part; and

wherein the lower part also includes at least one web which extends along the cut-through areas between at least two of the ribs and at least one web which extends along the cut-through areas between at least one of the ribs and at least one wall of at least one of the outlet channels.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The rechargeable battery of Claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1 wherein the lower part includes channel walls adjacent to the cut-through areas in order to form the labyrinth-like outlet channels.

4. (Original) The rechargeable battery of Claim 3 wherein the outlet channels include reinforcing webs.
5. (Original) The rechargeable battery of Claim 1 wherein the cells are connected to one another by means of the outlet channels such that they communicate.
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Currently Amended) The rechargeable battery of Claim [[6]] 1 wherein each of the webs are connected to the upper part.
8. (Currently Amended) The rechargeable battery of Claim [[6]] 1 wherein the upper part is welded to at least one of (a) at least one of the reinforcing webs included in the outlet channels, (b) at least one of the ribs which form the cell separating wall sections, (c) a wall of an outlet channel; (d) at least one of the webs which extend between the ribs; and (e) at least one of the webs which extend between at least one of the ribs and at least one wall of at least one of the outlet channels.
9. (Original) The rechargeable battery of Claim 1 wherein at least one of the upper part the lower part has a roughened surface in the area of the outlet channels.
10. (Original) The rechargeable battery of Claim 1 wherein the outlet channels are each inclined towards an outlet opening provided in the lower part which opens into a cell.
11. (Original) The rechargeable battery of Claim 1 further comprising a filling and monitoring opening which can be closed by means of a sealing plug provided for each cell in the cover.
12. (Original) The rechargeable battery of Claim 1 further comprising at least one degassing opening which is provided with ignition protection and is connected to the outlet channels such that they communicate.